

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref LG/00451/21

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

27 January 2021

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 11 January, regarding the potential impact of industrial action being taken by the GMB union on the delivery of the Welsh Government's Warm Homes Programme Nest Scheme.

Members of the GMB began industrial action on 7 January for an initial period of five days. Further action is scheduled to take place on seven separate days between 20 January and 1 February.

The First Minister has written to the company to make clear the Welsh Government remains very concerned progress has not been made towards a negotiated outcome to this dispute.

In Wales we are committed to social partnership as the means for resolving difficult issues and the Welsh Government, along with its partners, have a clear and direct interest in promoting an outcome based on this approach. The First Minister has written to the company to urge it continue discussions with all trade unions with a view to reaching an outcome agreed with all of its workforce.

My officials have confirmed the delivery of the Nest Scheme is not affected by the industrial action. Energy efficiency measures delivered through the Nest Scheme are installed by Wales based contractors, not employees of British Gas. British Gas managerial and support staff working on the Nest Scheme are not participating in the industrial action. This position is not expected to change. British Gas have provided assurances the agreement with GMB to continue to provide British Gas engineering services in emergency cases, such as householders without heating or hot water, during periods of industrial action will be maintained.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

My officials will continue to work closely with British Gas Nest senior management to understand any emerging issues or contingency planning which may be needed. We expect all Government contractors to support the principles of fair work, and it is important we ensure lower income households continue to benefit from the home energy efficiency measures being delivered through our Nest Scheme.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**

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